

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY
NO: BD-2024-036

IN RE: Bernard G. Sykes, III

**JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE
AFFIDAVIT OF RESIGNATION**

This matter came before the Court, Georges, J., on an Affidavit of Resignation pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 15, with the Recommendation and Vote of the Board of Bar Overseers (Board), and a letter dated February 26, 2024, from assistant bar counsel to general counsel stating that Bar Counsel recommends that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and that the lawyer be disbarred for his misconduct, filed by the Board on March 18, 2024. Upon consideration thereof, it is ORDERED and ADJUDGED that:

1. The Affidavit of Resignation of Attorney Bernard G. Sykes, III, be and hereby is accepted and he is hereby disbarred from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the lawyer's name is stricken from the Roll of Attorneys. In accordance with S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17(3), the disbarment shall be effective thirty days after the date of the entry of this Judgment. The lawyer, after the entry of this Judgment,

shall not accept any new retainer or engage as a lawyer for another in any new case or legal matter of any nature. During the period between the entry date of this Judgment and its effective date, however, the lawyer may wind up and complete, on behalf of any client, all matters which were pending on the entry date.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall:

a) file a notice of withdrawal as of the effective date of the disbarment with every court, agency, or tribunal before which a matter is pending, together with a copy of the notices sent pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the client's or clients' place of residence, and the case caption and docket number of the client's or clients' proceedings;

b) resign as of the effective date of the disbarment all appointments as guardian, executor, administrator, trustee, attorney-in-fact, or other fiduciary, attaching to the resignation a copy of the notices sent to the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the place of residence of the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries, and the case caption and docket number of the proceedings, if any;

c) provide notice to all clients and to all wards, heirs, and beneficiaries that the lawyer has been disbarred; that he is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the disbarment; and that, if not represented by co-counsel, the client, ward, heir, or beneficiary should act promptly to substitute another lawyer or fiduciary or to seek legal advice elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency arising from the circumstances of the case;

d) provide notice to counsel for all parties (or, in the absence of counsel, the parties) in pending matters that the lawyer has been disbarred and, as a consequence, is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the disbarment;

e) make available to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property to which they are entitled, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining the papers or other property;

f) refund any part of any fees paid in advance that have not been earned; and

g) close every IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and properly disburse or otherwise transfer all client and fiduciary funds in his possession, custody or control.

All notices required by this paragraph shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, in a form approved by the Board.

3. Within twenty-one (21) days after the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Office of the Bar Counsel an affidavit certifying that the lawyer has fully complied with the provisions of this Judgment and with bar disciplinary rules. Appended to the affidavit of compliance shall be:

- a) a copy of each form of notice, the names and addresses of the clients, wards, heirs, beneficiaries, attorneys, courts and agencies to which notices were sent, and all return receipts or returned mail received up to the date of the affidavit. Supplemental affidavits shall be filed covering subsequent return receipts and returned mail. Such names and addresses of clients shall remain confidential unless otherwise requested in writing by the lawyer or ordered by the court;
- b) a schedule showing the location, title and account number of every bank account designated as an IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and of every account in which the lawyer holds or held as of the entry date of this Judgment any client, trust or fiduciary funds;
- c) a schedule describing the lawyer's disposition of

all client and fiduciary funds in the lawyer's possession, custody or control as of the entry date of this Judgment or thereafter;

d) such proof of the proper distribution of such funds and the closing of such accounts as has been requested by the bar counsel, including copies of checks and other instruments;

e) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice;

f) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed; and

g) any and all bar registration cards issued to the lawyer by the Board of Bar Overseers.

The lawyer shall retain copies of all notices sent and shall maintain complete records of the steps taken to comply with the notice requirements of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17.

4. Within twenty-one (21) days after the entry date of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County:

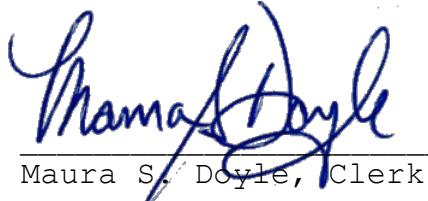
a) a copy of the affidavit of compliance required by paragraph 3 of this Judgment;

b) a list of all other state, federal and

administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice; and ATTEST:

c) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed.

By the Court, (Georges J.)



Maura S. Doyle, Clerk

Entered: March 26, 2024